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CLAIMS

1. A method of producing a hybrid DNA molecule having a sense strand and an anti-sense strand and in which, reading in the 5' to 3' direction, the sense strand has the sequences  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ , where  $n$  is greater than or equal to 3, the method comprising the steps of

- (1) providing in a single reaction mixture
  - (a) the sequences  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  and their complementary sequences  $x_1', x_2', \dots, x_n'$ , to be assembled into the hybrid molecule,
  - (b) for each pair of complementary sequences defined in (a) a respective pair of PCR primers each having a priming sequence and which are such that the primers hybridising to the 3' ends of any two sequences ( $x_i, x_{i+1}'$ ), where  $i$  is 1 to  $(n-1)$ , have specifically complementary linker sequences
- (2) effecting a first stage PCR reaction in which those primers provided with linker sequences are present in limiting concentrations, and
- (3) effecting a second stage PCR reaction using a single pair of primers one of which provides the 5'-end of the sense strand and other of which provides the 3'-end of the anti-sense strand of the required hybrid molecule

whereby said hybrid molecule is generated.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymerising enzyme adds a 3' adenosine overhang to an extended strand and those primers incorporating linker

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sequences have their priming sequences connected to their respective linker sequences via an adenine residue.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the polymerising enzyme is *Taq*.
4. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the annealing temperature ( $T_m$ ) of the linker sequences is greater than that of the priming sequences to the x and x' sequences.
5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the annealing temperature of the linker sequences is 2 to 5°C greater than that of the priming sequences to the x and x' sequences.
6. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the linker sequences do not have intrinsic secondary structure.
7. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein between the first and second stage PCR reactions the reaction mixture is frozen to deactivate residual PCR activity.
8. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein between the first and second stage PCR reactions the reaction mixture is treated with an exonuclease I to digest single stranded molecules.
9. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein each of the first and second stage PCR reactions utilise a thermally activated polymerase.
10. A method of mutation analysis wherein the analysis is effected on a DNA hybrid molecule produced in accordance with the method of any one of claims 1 to 9.

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11. A set of primers incorporating the following sequences.

5'tcatattgcccgtgcattgcc-a-3'

5'ggcaatgcagcggctaataatga-a-3'

5'agccactacccaaactcctgt-a-3'

5'acaggagtttggtagtggt-a-3'

5'tgtctcactgaacctgcctacct-a-3'

5'aggtaggcagggttcagttagaca-a-3'

5'cctcat taccggctgtcagactg-a-3'

5'cagctgcagcggtaatgagg-a-3'

12. A method of producing a hybrid DNA molecule having a sense strand and an anti-sense strand and in which, reading in the 5' to 3' direction, the sense strand has the sequences  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ , where  $n$  is greater than or equal to 3, the method comprising the steps of

- (a) providing in a single reaction mixture
  - (a) the sequences  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  and their complementary sequences  $x'_1, x'_2, \dots, x'_n$ , to be assembled into the hybrid molecule,
  - (b) for each pair of complementary sequences defined in (a) a respective pair of PCR primers each having a priming sequence and which are such that the primers for the 3' ends of any two sequences  $(x_i, x'_{(i+1)})$ , where  $i$  is 1 to  $(n-1)$ , have specifically complementary linker sequences connected to their respective priming sequences via an adenine residue, and

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- (2) effecting a PCR reaction using a polymerase which adds a 3' adenine overhang to the end of an extended strand